

**Central Valley Fish Facility Coordination Team
Meeting Notes
May 11, 1999**

Participants:

Dan Odenweller (DFG)	Valerie Curley (USBR)
Alan Baracco (DFG)	Kevan Urquhart (DFG)
Randy Brown (DWR)	M. Hallett (NRCS)
Ronald Brockman (USBR)	Steve Ford (DWR)
Paul Massera (CALFED)	

CALFED Stage 1 Implementation Schedule:

Of particular concern was the absence of evaluation time for the 500 cfs test facility prior to design and construction of the 2,500 cfs component of the CCFB intake. Paul Massera explained that a revised schedule is being developed (Tom Dang) and that approximately 2.5 years will be allocated to evaluate the test facility. Similarly, approximately 6 months will be allocated for evaluation of the initial 2,500 cfs CCFB facility prior to construction of the full 10,300 cfs facility. The 6-month period will be largely contingent upon the certainty and applicability of the evaluation results from the 500 cfs test facility.

Potential Change in Approach Velocities at Tracy:

Decision 1485 appears to provide some degree of flexibility in louver/approach velocity operations at TFCF – this may be subject to further interpretation. Specifically, a velocity of 1.5 fps or greater may be maintained through June 1. Research has indicated that louvering efficiency is optimum for splittail with velocities greater than 1.7 fps. However, this relationship is inverse for striped bass. Therefore, the increased velocities through May are only proposed in the clear absence of striped bass. The proposed flexible operation of louvers would have no impact on pumping operations. This operational flexibility concept is not applicable to Skinner as this flexibility provision does not appear to be contained in the D1485 language.

Update on Small Fish Screens:

M. Hallett (NRCS) provided a presentation on the status of existing small screens. Three specific O&M issues were of particular concern: backwash nozzles, shaft bearings, and inaccurate manufacturer literature. A collapsed 20 cfs screen on Butte Creek was presented. It had collapsed due to failures related to the backwash nozzles. The coverage of the nozzles was insufficient thereby increasing loading on the screen (not to mention increasing approach velocities). Also, one nozzle in particular had eroded into a concentrated stream which exacerbated this problem.

Sealed shaft bearings had also presented O&M challenges. In many cases, sand was discovered behind the seals embedded into the seal material (comprising the equivalent of sandpaper). Obviously, the abrasion would rapidly degrade the bearing assembly as well as the shaft itself.

Manufacturer literature was often found to be inconsistent with the actual product. This is a significant problem when considering the interaction of the components (backwash pumps, nozzles, etc).

Report of CVFPF Technical Team:

Dan Odenweller provided a handout detailing several issues with regard to the technical team. Development of a web page containing screening criteria and a link to the TEFF was discussed. Compilation of a database by NMFS containing information on existing screening facilities (type, size, cost, etc) was also briefly discussed.

Mitten Crab Management Strategies:

Odenweller presented three potential measures that are under consideration for Tracy. (1) utilization of the vertical traveling screens, (2) pump-through to sorting bay – at which point the crabs could be separated; or (3) raise primary louvers and channel the crabs into downstream culvert where they could be netted. One primary method is under consideration at Skinner. This involves installation of K-rails upstream of trashracks to channel the crabs into a designated collection area.

QA/QC Process:

The technical team is expected to produce a white paper addressing QA/QC processes, protocols, and other recommendations. A case in point was presented where a (visually) unidentified species was observed, a tissue sample was obtained, and the species was subsequently identified. It turned out to be a common species, but the process appeared to function as designed. Lastly, a concern was raised that the impacts that are occurring from circumventing the QA/QC process may be greater than the lack of defined/refined QA/QC procedures.

Other Issues:

The PSP TEFF funding proposal as well as the *Areas of Consensus for the Proposed Fish Facility Technology Development* (Interagency Technology Forum) were distributed but not discussed.

Next Meeting:

1:00 pm - Wednesday, July 21